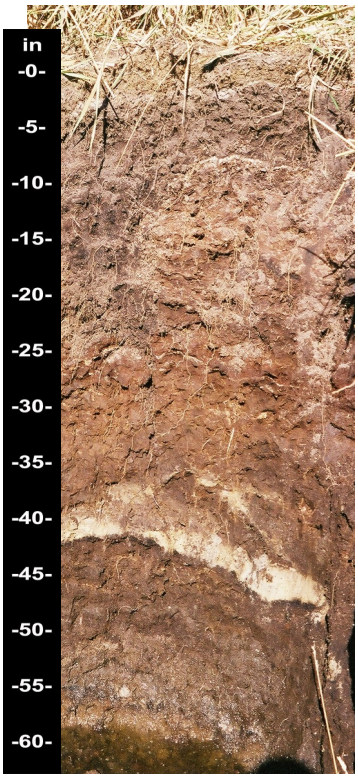
# SALTESE SERIES

Saltese soils are in the low-lying area between the trees in the foreground and the trees in the background

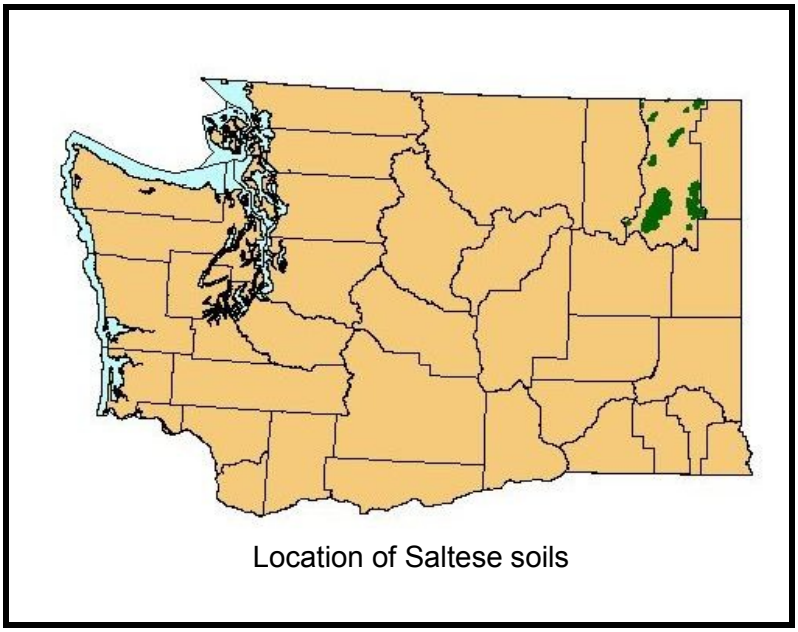



O1

O2

O3

O4



Location of Saltese soils

# SALTESE SERIES

## Land Resource Region E

**Parent material:** Decomposed remains of reeds, sedges, and other plant materials

**Extent:** Moderately extensive

**Climate:** Average annual precipitation is about 20 inches, and average annual soil temperature is about 47 degrees F. The climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, moist winters.

**Depth:** 60 or more inches

**Drainage:** Very poorly drained

**Average frost-free period:** 100 to 130 days

**Elevation:** 1,000 to 2,500 feet

**Soil Order:** Histosols - soils formed in organic materials instead of mineral material

**Family Classification:** Euic, mesic Typic Haplosaprists

Saltese soils are in basins, potholes, river valleys, in the channeled scablands, and around the shore lines of lakes in Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties, Washington. Natural vegetation is sedges, rushes, cattail, alkali cordgrass, and redosier dogwood.

**Uses:** Wildlife habitat, rangeland, and when drained crop production, hayland, and livestock grazing. Drained areas produce small grains, hay, and pasture.

**Management considerations:** Saltese soils pond water above the surface at times during December to May. These soils also flood frequently between December and May. The water table is at or near the surface during much of the year so they have limited management unless drained. Saltese soils are unsuitable for building sites because of soil wetness and because the organic material decomposes providing very limited strength.

The official soil series description is online at:
https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/S/SALTESE.html